

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A peripheral device for manipulating images comprising:
a gripping element;
means for transmitting command information to means for processing as a function of shift and/or efforts applied by the user on the device;
means for actuating by the user to control the means for processing to switch from one operating mode where the gripping element is used for manipulating images to an operating mode where the device is used as a pointer or for selection and vice versa.
2. The peripheral device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means for actuating comprise a button.
3. The peripheral device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the device has a gripping head mounted on a transmitter for shifts and/or efforts, the head having a general elongated hemispheric shape terminating at one end in a substantially straight edge and which has an arched section at its other end.
4. The peripheral device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the device has a gripping head mounted on a transmitter for shifts and/or efforts, the head presenting on its gripping face a plurality of recesses constituting tactile markers for positioning the hand of the user.
5. The peripheral device as claimed in claim 4 comprising three recesses distributed in a triangle in symmetrical fashion on the gripping head.
6. The peripheral device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the device presents a gripping head mounted on a transmitter for shifts and/or efforts, the head presenting a groove enclosing it at least partially and which facilitates positioning of the fingers of the user.
7. The peripheral device as claimed in claim 1 comprising a wall forming a wrist-rest in front of the device.

8. The peripheral device as claimed in claim 1 comprising a casing having on one side a plurality of buttons forming a keyboard and on the other side the device to be manipulated by user.

9. The peripheral device as claimed in claim 1 comprising a casing bearing a plurality of buttons, as well as the device to be manipulated by user, the device being placed in a tray which the casing presents.

10. The peripheral device as claimed in claim 1 comprising a casing on which the device to be manipulated by user is placed, the device extending with a main reference plane which, in the position of use expected for this peripheral device, is inclined relative to the horizontal.

11. The peripheral device as claimed in claim 10 wherein the angle of inclination is between 10 and 20°.

12. The peripheral device as claimed in claim 10 wherein the angle of inclination is of the order of 15°.

13. An assembly comprising:
a peripheral device for manipulating images by a user;
means for processing having a memory for image modelling;
means for linking by which the peripheral device transmits to the means for processing command information as a function of shift and/or efforts applied by the user on the device;
at least one means for displaying an image;
means for linking by which the means for processing transmit to the means for display an image to be displayed, the image being a function of the command information transmitted to the means for processing by the peripheral device;
wherein in one operating mode the device controls 2D navigation on the means for display;
the means for processing comprising means in the one operating mode, as a function of the command information transmitted by the peripheral device, for

controlling a 2D shift of a pointer displayed on the means for display and/or selecting given functions as a function of the position of the pointer;

the assembly comprising means actuated by the user to control the means for processing to switch to another operating mode for manipulating 3D images from the one operating mode where the device is used to control 2D navigation on the means for display and vice versa.

14. An installation for viewing images comprising:

an assembly as claimed in claim 13 wherein the peripheral device is placed in a surgical theater and/or examination room.

15. An installation as claimed in claim 14 wherein the peripheral device is placed in a surgical theater and/or examination room, on the edge of a table intended for patients.